

# CHURCH OF GOD Evangel

Report on Convention  
in Central and South  
America.

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But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.



Where the Healing Waters Flow

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## BULLETIN BOARD

### Notice

If anyone has friends or relatives in service at Parris Island or any place around Beaufort, South Carolina, we would be glad to have them worship with us at the Church of God on the corner of Ribaut and Prince Street. If you know of anyone, call 208R or send the address to Rev. A. C. Godwin, P. O. Box 170, Beaufort, South Carolina.

### SUGGESTED SCHEDULE FOR COMMENCEMENT WEEK 1956-57

Senior Class Exercises . . . 10:00 a.m. Friday, May 17  
Baccalaureate Sermon . . . 10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 19  
Religious Film . . . . . 8:00 p.m. Monday, May 20  
Senior Play . . . . . 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 21  
Senior Play . . . . . 8:00 p. m. Wednesday, May 22  
Alumni Program . . . 10:00-12:00 a.m. Thursday, May 23  
(To be announced by Alumni Chairman)  
Alumni Program . . . 1:30-5:00 p.m. Thursday, May 23  
(Everyone Invited)  
Alumni Banquet and Business Meeting  
of State Overseers and Lee College  
Board . . . . . 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 23  
Alumni Candlelight  
Service . . . . . 7:45 p.m. Thursday, May 23  
Music Concert . . . . . 8:00 p.m. Thursday, May 23  
Commencement . . . . . 10:00 a.m. Friday, May 24

We are serving as missionaries to Limon, Costa Rica. Just last night we ended a revival with the Reverend Noel De Souza and an evangelist from Arizona. During the two weeks over 500 people came forward for salvation, for which we praise the Lord.

Our work here in Limon is only a month old and the Church of God is not well-known. During the revival I received some back issues of the *Evangel*. I wish you could have seen the response. The people pushed and crowded around the front until the altar was torn down. After a day or two people were still asking for more.

I am writing to see if you could send us some back issues of both the *Evangel* and *Lighted Pathway*. The people have no religious papers to read whatsoever. I feel it is our responsibility to give it to them. Any other literature you could let us have would be greatly appreciated.

—Jackie R. Scott  
Box 170  
Limon, Costa Rica

Vol. 48, No. 12

May 20, 1957

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## CHURCH OF GOD *Evangel*

America's Oldest Pentecostal Publication

CHARLES W. CONN, Editor

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### DECLARATION OF FAITH

#### WE BELIEVE

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible. 2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor. 4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins. 5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. 6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost. 7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people. 8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart. 9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. 10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement. 12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet. 13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second to reign on the earth a thousand years. 14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

Published Weekly by  
The Church of God Publishing House  
E. C. Thomas, Business Manager

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single Subscription, per year	\$2.00
Single Copy	.05

Entered as second-class matter under act of March 3, 1879, at Cleveland, Tennessee. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, act of October 3, 1917. Authorized August 23, 1918.

Where the

## HEALING WATERS FLOW

By Ralph E. Northrup

Pastor, Church of God, Great Falls, Montana

*"Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda (house of mercy), having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent (helpless) folk, of blind, halt (lame), withered, waiting for the MOVING OF THE WATER. For an angel went down at a certain season (time) into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole (healed, recovered) of whatsoever disease he had," John 5:2-4.*

**W**ATER IS A TYPE OF the Spirit of God and the Word of God. His Word is eternal, His Word is spirit, and life (John 6:63), and we hear David say, "He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions," Psalm 107:20. We also know one cannot have faith in God without His Word. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). "Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently (carefully, attentively) seek him," Hebrews 11:6.

There was water here at Bethesda, and a time when it was stirred for healing, but the helpless one had no one to lift him into the water. One day Jesus, the Son of the Living God, the Word who was made flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14) visited the pool and spoke to the helpless one. When this man believed in the words of Jesus, he was made whole, and took up his bed and walked, a living testimony that God will make a way where there is no way (naturally), also that what is impossible with men is possible with God, and that all things are possible to them that believe Him. Notice that the Scriptures said, "... waiting for the moving of the water"; so also we must wait on the Lord, be faithful, patient, trusting, longsuffering, and obedient, and know that Jesus never fails. When Jesus said unto him, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk" (John 5:8) he did not argue or hesitate; he put all his hope and faith in the words of this One who spoke to him, and he found *where the healing waters flow*.

Later, Jesus passed by a place where He saw a man who was blind from his birth; His disciples questioned Him as to who had sinned to cause this man to be born blind. Jesus answered, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest (revealed, or unveiled) in him," John 9:3. It is much that way even today. When someone becomes diseased, sick, or maimed, right away many assume that it is a judgment for sin. Often they are sadly mistaken, for even now the Lord permits certain cases, just as this man of old, that the works of God should be made manifest.

God gets no glory out of one's being sick, maimed, or diseased, as so many assume, and sad to say even believe; but He does get glory out of it all when His marvelous work of healing is manifested, and they are made whole. God delights in revealing His power, and gets great glory out of all that yield to Him, and let His power be openly demonstrated. There is no case too hard for Him. He uses various channels to perform His works, and He wants to use all of His children, if they will but consecrate their lives to Him and obey His will. Ever since the crucifixion of Christ, and His resurrection, we have access to *where the healing waters flow*.

Remember the record of John in John 19:34, "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith *came there out blood and water*." Yes, from the wounded side of our Lord and Master came the *healing waters*, and when we make the point of contact with Him, we become partakers with His life and His word; we become one in Him, as He is one with the Father. "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one," John 17:22.

Jesus took the blind man and applied spittle and clay to his eyes, and told him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing," John 9:7. Some take this and falsely imply that Jesus thus justifies the use of politics, etc., because He spat upon the ground and mixed spittle and clay; but this is not so. It reveals that when the divine makes contact with the earthly there will be a change. "There-



fore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (creation): old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new," 2 Corinthians 5:17. Man is of the earth, and Jesus is of above, heaven. There was no curative power in the spittle that Jesus made and with which He anointed the man's eyes; it was merely a point of contact, and symbolic of God's creative power. If the man had not obeyed the words of Jesus and gone to the pool of Siloam and washed, he would never have received his sight; but when he obeyed the words and made the second point of contact—now a physical action of his own—he came away seeing. It was not the natural water in which he washed that gave him his sight; it was because he obeyed the words of Jesus. Yes, he found where the healing waters flow.

A few years ago we were evangelizing in the town of Ovid, Michigan, in a small church, holding forth in an old store building. The pastor and I visited a home where a young woman was suffering from heart trouble. She had been in bed for seventeen weeks, under medical care, and taking much medicine, but she was still growing worse. We talked to her, and found that she professed to be saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Spirit. The pastor knelt by a chair near the bed, and I knelt with him, and he prayed; then we arose, shook hands with the woman on the bed, and started to leave the house. When I reached the door of her room, the Spirit of the Lord came upon me with surging power. I obeyed the Spirit's impulse to me, and turned around and ran back to her bedside, saying, "You are a child of God, and endued with power from on high. Why trust in all these remedies to no avail, when Jesus, the Great Physician, is yours?" She began to weep violently, and then I said, "Are you dressed so you can get out of bed before men?" She replied feebly, "Yes, I have my dressing gown on." I said to her, "In the name of Jesus, arise and be thou whole, and walk." No sooner had I finished uttering these words, words that the Holy Spirit had placed in my mouth, than she crawled out of bed. As soon as her feet touched the floor, she stood up quickly and began to dance and whirl, with hands in the air, shouting louder and louder each utterance, "Hallelujah, Thank you, Jesus. I'm healed, I'm healed." Needless to say, she came to church the following night and all through the revival. Yes, she was completely healed, for she had found *where the healing waters flow*.

After three weeks at Ovid, Michigan, with others being healed, and some saved, we went to Lansing, Michigan. One night before we left there, some folks from Ovid brought their little daughter suffering with St. Vitus's dance, to us for prayer. She was but thirteen years old then, and so poor and white; she was a tragic sight. We trembled, and felt so helpless, but we wanted so to see her well. We wept, and knelt apart from them a while in prayer, seeking the face of God for this hour. We arose broken in spirit and tremblingly laid our hands upon this thirteen-year-old girl's head, after anointing her with oil, and in the name of Jesus commanded her to be delivered and made whole from this terrible disease. She wept soft-

ly; her parents shouted and wept, but otherwise there was no outward sign, or evidence of her healing. I told them, telling myself as well, "We must trust God, believing it is done, and believe she'll never have another attack." We shook hands and parted, and I never saw them again until five years later. While I was conducting a revival at Flint, Michigan, one night a beautiful, tall, well-dressed lady walked up to me before service and said, "Good evening, Brother Northrup, God bless you!" I replied, "God bless you; but I don't believe I know you, do I?"

She smiled and said, "Look at me; don't you remember me?" I replied, "No, I just cannot place you." She then said, "Remember about five years ago when you prayed for a little girl with St. Vitus's dance at Lansing, Michigan?" Well, then I recollected, and exclaimed, "You don't mean to tell me you are that girl!" "Yes," she replied joyously, "and Brother Northrup, I was truly healed that night you prayed for me, and have never had an attack since. I am now married and have a small family, happy, and still serving the Lord." Yes, she had found *where the healing waters flow*.

Naaman the leper found it, when he made contact with the man of God, Elisha, and submitted himself to the will of God, through the words of the prophet Elisha: "Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean," 2 Kings 5:10.

There was a struggle with himself, but he finally yielded and did exactly as he was told to do, even though it seemed foolish to his carnal thinking. Yes, that is the trouble with so many even today, just like Naaman, but Paul reminds us in Romans 8:6, 7, "For to be carnally minded is death . . . because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." This hinders many from being not only healed, but also saved, sanctified and filled with His Spirit.

"But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men," 1 Corinthians 1:24, 25.

When Naaman finally submitted and fulfilled the Word of God through the prophet Elisha, and dipped seven times (completeness, fullness of God), he was cleansed from the awful leprosy. He found *where the healing waters flow*, and so will we when we come to our spiritual Jordan, the place of death—dying out to self-life, and carnal thoughts. Then there will be healing not only for our bodies, but also for our minds, our hearts, and our spirits.

"Where the healing waters flow,  
Where the joys celestial glow;  
Where there's peace and rest and love,  
Where the healing waters flow."

Oh, how happy you will be when you have found *where the healing waters flow*. It is not in the pool Bethesda, not in the pool of Siloam, not in the River Jordan, but it is in Christ, the Anointed One, we have life, we have strength, and we have our healing.



*"Now God commandeth  
all men every where to re-  
pent," Acts 17:30.*

# REPENTANCE

*By H. L. Chesser*

*Pastor, Clearwater, Florida*

**A**S PAUL STOOD in the midst of Mars Hill he perceived that the Athenians were in all things too superstitious, seeing their devotions to the unknown God, whom they ignorantly worshipped. He proceeded to enlighten them relative to a God who could be known, and how they might know Him, and that God once winked at ignorance, but now He commanded all men everywhere to repent.

We hear a great deal about repentance and how necessary it is for man to repent of his sins in order to be saved. In Luke 13:3 we have this record, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." The message of John the Baptist was repent, repent; and when the disciples were sent out, the Lord sent them with this message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Peter on the Day of Pentecost raised the same cry, "Repent ye." It was this kind of preaching—"Repent and believe the gospel"—that wrought marvelous results then, and if it was necessary at that time and brought results, is it not needed today, and can that kind of preaching fail to bring results?

Many persons have a mistaken idea about repentance; yet this text is one of the most often used in the Bible. Just being sorry for the wrong we have done is insufficient. The conscience pricks and makes one uneasy because of wrong done, and the man says in his heart, "I wish I had left that alone; I wish I had not indulged in those practices," and feels sorry for what he has done. I suppose there have been few murders committed that sooner or later the murderer did not say in his heart that he was sorry the person was dead; yet this is not repentance. It is remorse, that feeling of hating one-

self, a most horrible and miserable feeling when it comes upon any one in its full strength. It has caused multitudes to lose their health, some to lose their minds, some to commit suicide. I believe an example of this is shown in the way Judas met his fate. Yet remorse does not save a person, or give him ease of conscience, or freedom from the guilt of sin, or peace in his heart.

Some think repentance is fear, and that they have to become alarmed and terrified and wait for a feeling of this kind to strike them before they call upon God to forgive them. Many have become alarmed and afraid who never repented. Men at sea during a terrible storm, profane though they may be, may become afraid and even pray to God for mercy then when the storm has passed, they continue on in their sin and ungodliness as before. In 1928 when the great hurricane struck the east coast of Florida with a wind velocity of 128 miles per hour, many buildings were destroyed. The school building where the people were taking shelter burst at the corners, and it looked as if the building would be blown away any second. One of our ministers suggested it was time to pray, and saint and sinner prayed together. Many were afraid, but God spared the building and we all came through alive. The next day, however, sinners were sinning, bootleggers were bootlegging whiskey, cursers were cursing, thieves were stealing, liars were lying, just as they had before the hurricane. Fear is not repentance.

Some have the idea that fasting and afflicting the body constitute repentance, but the Pharisee had been fasting regularly and made mention of it in

his prayer. The Papists thought the repentance God required was for man to punish himself bitterly for his sins, starve and torture himself, give up all that makes life pleasant, and so atone for his sins. This has been tried; some have killed themselves by torture, but it did not take away their sins. Their consciences were not relieved; they gained no feeling of comfort, no assurance of God's love, no ease of conscience, no peace of soul, no happiness of sins forgiven, no change of heart.

The word *repentance* in Scripture means a change of mind; and a change of mind means a change of conduct. Isaiah 55:7, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

Proverbs 28:13, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." In order to be at peace with God, to have ease of conscience, to experience the joy of sins forgiven and to be a child of God, there are certain conditions to be met. Let the wicked forsake his way, turning away from the paths of wickedness and sin. You cannot find peace with God if you continue to follow the paths of wickedness.

Paul states in Galatians 5:19-21, that those who follow the works of the flesh—"adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like, . . . shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Therefore, one of the conditions is forsaking our wickedness. He goes even further and tells the unrighteous to forsake his thoughts. He may not speak or act unchristian, but sin inwardly is a fountain of bitter waters. Some have wrong thoughts about God, such as God is too merciful to punish sin, or God does not frown on little sins, or you can fail to obey God and still make it in. They have little consideration for His Word, and only serve Him when it is convenient. Proverbs 28:13, "Whoso confesseth and forsaketh them (his sins) shall have mercy."

1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Matthew 1:21, "And thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins" (and not in them). The road of sin leads away from God. In Matthew 11:28 Christ said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

We are required to do more than forsake sin. Merely turning from idols and sin is insufficient. Many have reformed and have given up the grosser sins; yet have stumbled over their own thoughts, human wisdom, and human religion, and are strangers to the grace of God. We are to turn to God in thought, in vision, in worship, in love, and in services; and the promise is He will abundantly pardon.

In Hebrews 11:6 we have this record, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that

cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." In the Beatitudes Jesus told them, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." One must believe in Jesus Christ as the sacrifice for sin, in His blood as the atonement for sin. We are happy recipients of the blessings of forgiveness and a born-again experience when we meet the conditions as given to us in His Word. I may be hungry and believe that the groceryman has what I need to feed my starving stomach, but to meet the condition I must go to the store and exchange my money for the groceries. Then I can boldly come away with that which will satisfy my hunger because I have met the conditions. When we come to God in faith, confessing and forsaking our sin and wickedness, believing He will grant our petitions, and willing to serve Him, we are recipients of His blessings, and a born-again experience.

Isaiah 59:2, "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." To bring us together with God would necessitate our separation from sin and iniquities that He might hear us. In Psalm 66:18 David says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

The prodigal son resolved to turn from his way, return to his father's house, and confess that he had sinned and was not worthy to be a son, but that he was willing to be a hired servant. He was willing to take the consequences of low servitude if he could just be forgiven; to be a hired servant in his father's house would be so much better than feeding swine in a far country, alienated from the family, hungry and lonely. In heavy remorse of conscience he thought of the opportunities in his father's house where there was plenty, where hired servants had bread enough and to spare, while he perished with hunger. Probably his mind reflected back on the day he had left home in pride, pomp and splendor; but now he was willing to swallow his pride and return, confessing that he had sinned. He arose and came to his father, confessed that he had sinned against heaven, and in his father's sight, and was not worthy to be called his son. He *believed*, he *turned from his wicked way*, he *returned to his father*, he *confessed his sins*, and *was willing to take all the blame*, made *no demands*, *no reservations*, but *was ready to serve his father as a servant*.

The father had compassion, ran to meet him, put the best robe on him, shoes on his feet, a ring on his hand, killed the fatted calf and made merry in a great feast, for his son was dead, and is alive again, he was lost and is found. There was much joy in the reunion of the son with his father's house.

Likewise, there is joy when the soul returns to its Maker. There is joy in heaven over one sinner that repents, more than over ninety and nine that need no repentance. When all conditions are met, you then become a newborn soul, with the fire of divine grace kindled in your heart, and enjoy peace of conscience and happiness of life. It is up to us to keep the fire burning, by obedience, by prayer, by reading the Word.



By Wade H. Horton  
Missions Field Representative



## DIVINE HEALING

**W**HEN ONE BEGINS to study the doctrine of divine healing from a Biblical standpoint there are several things that sooner or later will come into focus. These are signposts which if studied and followed sincerely will lead to an understanding of this most wonderful subject. They are steppingstones to a spiritual plane where the complete picture unfolds into its proper scriptural setting. It is somewhat like looking at beautiful countryside scenery from a lofty mountain peak. At first it is just one big breathtaking scene. It seems unreal and unbelievable as you stand in awe-stricken silence, wondering how anything could have such matchless loveliness. After a while, however, the different parts of this scenery become noticeable to your vision. Then the hills, streams, trees, rocks, houses, cattle, different colors of vegetation, and many other things are picked up as your eyes sweep the horizon, revealing to you the reason for the beauty of this fascinating panoramic picture.

There are a great many things that merge into the whole to make the doctrine of divine healing one of the most blessed and important truths recorded in God's Holy Word. Some have not seen the important position of physical deliverance as it relates to God's sympathetic and compassionate dealing with His people. They have not seen it because their look, or rather their glance, has been nonchalant and momentary, with no real sincere desire to find God's plan and purpose for their lives. Truth must be sought to be found, and respected to be understood. With this in mind I respectfully approach my subject through the five following questions: **WHENCE COMETH SICKNESS AND DISEASE? WHO CAN BE DELIVERED? ARE THERE HINDRANCES TO HEALING? ARE THERE DIFFERENT KINDS OF HEALING? WHAT IS THE MAJOR KEY TO HEALING?**

1. **WHENCE COMETH SICKNESS AND DISEASE?**  
Is it just natural to be sick? Does it come to us by

chance? Must we calmly accept it as nature's will to us and be satisfied with whatever disease comes our way? When it comes, is there no way to rid ourselves of it until it runs its course? Should we just sit and wait for the inevitable? NO, it is not natural to be sick; neither does it come by chance. It comes from a power foreign to the body and completely contrary to its nature. We should not meekly accept sickness without putting every weapon at our disposal into operation against it.

The physical body opposes disease and uses all its resources to repel its attack, for it recognizes it as its mortal enemy. How much more should the spiritual man conclude that disease is our archenemy and treat it as such, revolting against its every encroachment. We cannot, we must not reckon its origin or source to be our heavenly Father. He is not our enemy. He is our friend—yes, and our very best friend at that. He would not strike us down with polio or put cancers into our bodies. It is the highest insult to His perfection to ascribe disease as His tool to destroy His creation. Therefore, it must be asserted here, and maintained also, that the devil is the originator and the perpetuator of sickness and disease. God then stands vindicated (not that He needs any vindication, but to put at rest some misguided minds who believe their diseases came from Him) of any implication or incriminating connection in the diabolical plot to afflict and destroy man, His created and cherished masterpiece.

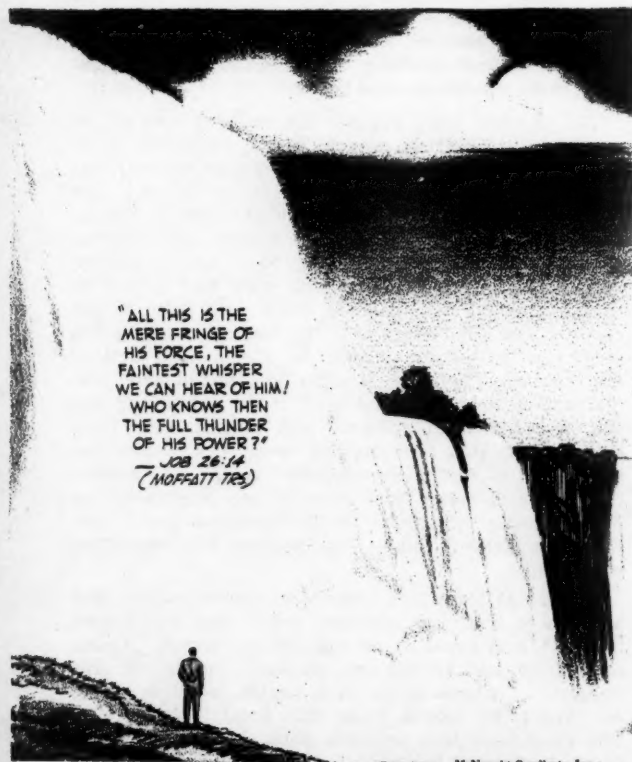
In Luke 13 there is a story of a woman "which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself." Later, after Jesus had healed her, He said, "Ought not this woman . . . whom *Satan hath bound*, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond?" (verse 11). The devil bent this woman's back. It was not God's doing. It was not her Friend. It was her enemy. *Satan* bent her back. *Jesus* straightened it. Another scrip-

tural proof is found in Matthew 12:22. "Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw." Is this not plain, unmistakable evidence, and sufficient enough to convict the devil of causing this man's blindness and dumbness?

Luke 11:14, "And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, *when the devil was gone out*, the dumb spake." When did the dumb speak? He spoke *when the devil had gone out*, which is amply clear that it was the devil's work. That wonderful verse, Acts 10:38, should forever convince the skeptical. "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." There is no way to mistake this statement, or to become confused, for it definitely says that the people Jesus healed during His earthly ministry were *oppressed of the devil*." Jesus went about doing good. Satan went about doing evil. Satan afflicts and oppresses. *Jesus Christ heals and liberates His people from them.*

In a study of Job's case this fact always stands out, "So went Satan forth . . . and smote Job with sore

#### NIAGARA'S ROAR, WHISPERS OF GOD'S POWER



"ALL THIS IS THE  
MERE FRINGE OF  
HIS FORCE, THE  
FAINTEST WHISPER  
WE CAN HEAR OF HIM!  
WHO KNOWS THEN  
THE FULL THUNDER  
OF HIS POWER?"  
—JOB 26:14  
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boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown." *Satan went forth and smote him.* This shows that afflictions and diseases are caused by Satan. God's power to stop him or to allow him to afflict, notwithstanding:

When one realizes that sickness is the devil's work, then, and only then, can he have faith for deliverance. As long as there is a lingering suspicion that God sent it, there can be no real confidence when we pray for healing, lest the prayer is contrary to God's will. In other words, if God has sent it why pray against, fight against and work against the very thing God has given. If one believes that God sent his affliction he should praise Him for it every day. However, friend, He does not send it. The Scripture (James 1:17) declares that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights." Yes, every good and perfect gift, *but not one bad one.* All evil ones come from the devil. When this fact is believed, it is a definite and a strong step toward deliverance. *Believe it and be blessed. Disbelieve it and be disillusioned.*

#### 2. WHO CAN BE DELIVERED?

Does God heal only persons from some special selected group? Is it His will for some to remain sick while others receive healing? If it is His plan to heal some and refuse to heal others, how can we know whom to pray for? If God's promises to heal are not for all, does not this mean that we cannot know God's will by reading His Word? If His program is to hear the prayers of some and refuse to listen to others, then why is it not so stated in the Holy Writ? Does not this kind of reasoning admit that God's Word is not a sufficient guide and that we should pray for a special revelation for each case?

There is only one answer to these questions; the Word declares that Jesus *healed all that were sick.* Matthew 8:16, "When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, *and healed all that were sick.*" The next verse states, "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and *bare our sicknesses*" (Isaiah 53:4, 5). The Apostle Peter wrote (1 Peter 2:24) that Christ "*bare our sins in his own body on the tree.*" He bore our sins and He also bore our sicknesses. He bore our sins that we *would not have to bear them.* He bore our sicknesses so that we *would not have to bear them.* If one is true, then both are true. He did not bear the sins of just a few; neither did He bear the sicknesses of a few, but for all. *He healed all that were sick.*

In Exodus 15:26 God promised, "I am the Lord that *healeth thee.*" This was promised to all who served Him. There was no exception. Matthew 9:35, "Jesus went about . . . healing *every sickness and every disease* among the people." He did not refuse one but healed them all. Matthew 14:35, 36, "They . . . brought unto him *all that were diseased; . . . and as many as touched (His garment) were made perfectly whole.*" Luke 4:40, "All they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his



hands on every one of them and healed them." Luke 6:19 states that "the whole multitude sought to touch him, for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all." Christ never refused those who sought His healing, but the Gospels tell us repeatedly that He healed all of them. Only one man in the Bible ever sought healing by saying, "If it be thy will." He said, "If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." Jesus was moved with compassion and said, "I will; be thou clean." These Scriptures prove, without any doubt, that Jesus never turned anyone away from His healing touch.

When He chose men to carry on His work after His departure, "He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease." His command was, "As you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:1, 7, 8; Luke 9:1, 2; 10:1, 8, 9, 19). This power and authority was given to the Twelve and the Seventy—the power to cast out devils, heal the sick, and cleanse the leper.

After the Resurrection, when He gave the great commission, He let them know that signs and miracles would not only follow them, but would also follow all them that believe (Mark 16:15-20). "These signs shall follow them that believe" (verse 17), not just the Twelve or Seventy or to some chosen few, but to them that believe." In the great revival in Jerusalem, after the Holy Ghost and power had been poured out upon them (Acts 1:8; 2:1-4), "there came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one" (Acts 5:16). The same pattern is being followed and the same power is exercised that attended the ministry of Jesus Christ. *They were healed every one.* He had told them, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works shall he do, because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12).

When Paul was on the island of Melita, he prayed for the father of Publius "who lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux, and laid his hands on him and healed him" (Acts 28:8, 9). "When this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed" (verse 9). Moffatt's translation of this verse says, "When this had happened, the rest of the sick folk in the island also came and got cured." Weymouth says, "All the other sick people in the island." This seems to be clear that all the sick on the island got healed, but nothing is said about anyone's getting saved. Here is one revival that seemed to be just a healing revival.

We have other proof (not by example but by precept) that God will heal all that come to Him in faith and sincerity. Jesus said, in John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." This is addressed to every child of God, not just to Peter and Paul, or to John Wesley, Spurgeon, Flinney, Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, or Oswald J. Smith, but to

## DIVINE REQUISITE



you, child of God, whoever you are. If this is not the case, Christ would have specified whom He meant. If the following Scriptures do not mean He will answer your prayers, and mine, and everybody's prayers, *without exception*, then what could they mean? If there are some privileged persons who can pray for healing and receive it, and there are others who cannot, then these and other promises mean nothing.

Jesus, our Lord and Master, said, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24). Again, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, *BELIEVING*, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22). Thank God, the Bible says what it means and means what it says. *Healing is for all.* There are no exceptions.

There is no reason to be duped and drugged by the devil, my brother and my sister, for we have God's infallible and immutable Word that cannot lie, and though we be poor or rich, high or low, educated or illiterate, if we come to our God in humility with clean hands and a pure, undefiled heart, *He will heal us.* *There are no exceptions.* His rule and plan is to heal all. If we fail to get our healing it is because we fail to press our claim, and neglect to exercise our authority over demons and diseases.

**W**E LEFT EARLY TUESDAY morning for Asuncion, Paraguay; en route, the plane landed at La Paz in Bolivia, which is the highest commercial airport in the world. The airport there is situated at an altitude of 13,500 feet above sea level. We were delayed at this airport for about three hours because of the tremendous downpour. The runway there is gravel, not concrete as in many places here in this country. In landing at La Paz, you land uphill, and in taking off, you take off downhill. The rarity of the atmosphere necessitates a longer runway and more time for the plane to get in the air. The lack of oxygen is very apparent as you get out and walk around, and it does not take much walking until one is soon panting for life-giving oxygen.

After having left La Paz, we arrived at Asuncion at 7:15 in the evening. Brother Minay and another one of the brethren met us at the airport. We made the long ride into town, and upon arrival at the home of Brother Minay, we met a group of the saints of God who were at his house to greet us. We had a short prayer with them out in the front yard, and Brother and Sister Minay invited us in for supper. After having supper, we went over to the church for a short service and gave our testimonies for the Lord.

We were up Wednesday morning at 3:30 to go to the interior. A taxi came for us at 4:30 to take us to the bus station. We rode one of the first-class busses in that country, and set out for Independence Colony several miles up the road. For a way the road was paved, but after a while the pavement gave out and we had a dusty ride until we reached Independence Colony. After reaching the end of the bus route, we walked about two and one-half miles to the home of Brother Rocsh. We arrived at his home about 1:30 p.m. and they immediately set out some refreshments for us to eat.

A baptismal service had already been announced and a group of people were gathering at the church. The farm tractor was hooked up to a trailer and as many as could possibly get on piled into the trailer to be towed by the tractor down to the creek where the baptismal service was to be held. It started drizzling rain as we started down toward the creek. Part of the way the branches of the trees met overhead, forming somewhat of a tunnel down through the woods. The people were singing the songs of Zion. On the trailer there were several nationalities represented—German, Spanish, Finnish, Guatanese Indians, and Americans. They were singing in Spanish the old song we used to sing years ago, "They Come."

As they sang about the people coming from the East and the West, from the stormy ways, and from regions beyond the sea, and that He who trod the earthly sod will welcome each pilgrim there, my heart shouted with joy and tears welled up in my eyes. I thought of that glorious home-gathering day when we shall meet each other around the throne of God and shout His praises forever. While standing on the creek banks, the people sang a few songs. A short message was

# Report on Conventions in Central and South America

By *James A. Cross*

*Assistant General Overseer*

(CONCLUDED)

given on baptism. The local pastor led the candidates down into the water where he baptized seven men and women.

We returned home in the rain, all of us soaking wet, but our souls flooded with the glories of God.

The building was well-filled that night, in spite of the rain, with people who were hungry to hear the gospel of the Son of God. I preached and Brother Hargrave interpreted for me. We gave an altar call, and people came to the altar. One received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Services were conducted all day Thursday. Brother Hargrave was in charge of the services, and business sessions were carried on in the morning and the afternoon. Thursday night, Brother Hargrave preached. Following his sermon a missions offering was given, the first one the church had ever given, and God poured out His Spirit upon them. Over two thousand guatanese were given that night in the offering. After the offering was given and counted, a number of young people came to the altar dedicating their lives to the spreading of the gospel. Plans were being laid in that meeting to open a Bible school for the purpose of training Christian workers. One man had made the offer of ground on which buildings could be constructed where a Bible school could be carried on. Let us pray that God will pour out His Spirit upon them. In Paraguay they have four churches and six missions in operation. Brother Minay, his wife, and the other workers in that area are doing whole-hearted service for God and are ready to serve Him with all of their souls.

Friday morning we were up again at 4:30, and after breakfast, the farm tractor and trailer hauled us with another group down to the end of the bus line. We rode the bus back into Asuncion and got ready for the services which were to begin. Brother

Hargrave preached Friday night and we had a wonderful time in the Lord.

The services in Asuncion were conducted in the local church. Souls were saved during the services there. The services Saturday night were again signally blessed of the Lord, and hungry hearts came to the altar seeking the Lord. A good offering was taken that night for the building of the local church in Asuncion; the people gave willingly out of their necessity for the cause of Christ.

**EARLY SUNDAY MORNING**, Brother Minay and two of the brethren accompanied us to the airport where we were to leave to go to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Brazil in actual area is larger than all of the United States including Alaska. Over this large area we have only two American missionaries and their wives working there. Let us pray that God will abundantly bless them and give them the physical strength that is necessary to carry on this great work. Brother Wayne McAfee, the Overseer of Brazil, and his wife and Brother Bill Watson and his wife are missionaries in that country. They also have the natives of Brazil who are pastoring the churches. Brazil has 45 churches and missions with 894 members and 33 workers. The convention was already in progress when we got to Rio, as we could not get a flight out of Paraguay on Saturday and had to wait until Sunday; this made us late for the convention. We were there for the Sunday night service and services all day Monday and Monday night.

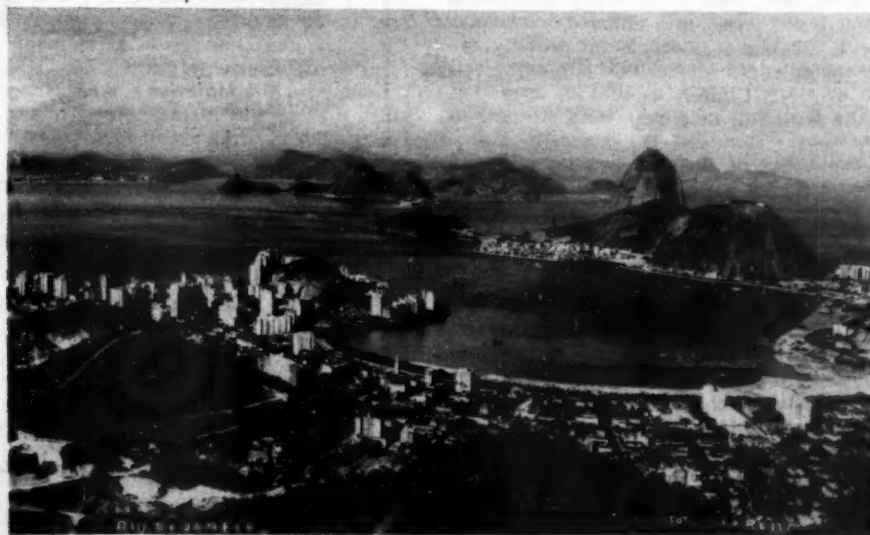
Services were already in progress when we arrived at the church Sunday night. Every seat was taken and people were standing around the door and in the aisles. A large bus had been chartered to bring people to the convention and they were there in great numbers. Someone made a passage for us down the aisle through the crowds and brought us up to the front, and we were seated on the platform. How God was

blessing, and the glory of God was present in every song that was sung. After songs of welcome by the choir and the congregation, Brother Hargrave preached.

The Lord certainly anointed Brother Hargrave for the message that night. The services there are in Portuguese, and as Brother Hargrave said his Portuguese had not quite come back to him yet, Brother McAfee interpreted for him. The Lord anointed both of them, and shouts of praises ascended to God while the preaching was going on. An altar call was given at the conclusion of the message and forty-two people responded to the altar invitation. Many are hungry for the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and a number prayed through that night.

Their method of counting those who receive the baptism is just a little different from ours here in the States. When one prays through in the crowd, a worker gets hold of the one who has prayed through and they are pushed and pulled and hauled through until they are brought to the platform where one of the ministers can hear the seeker speak in other tongues; then they are counted as having received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I saw one boy about twelve years old who received the baptism; one of the workers picked him up under his arms, holding him above his head, and pushed his way through the crowd until he got to the front where he could set the boy down. It is marvelous to see God pour out His Spirit upon the souls of men and women. The services lasted until late in the night, but nobody cared because God was richly pouring out His blessings upon them.

The convention began Monday morning with a business session in the morning and also one in the afternoon. The morning business session lasted until about 1:00 p.m. There was an intermission for lunch; then the afternoon session began and continued until about 7:00 p.m. Someone was appointed





to begin the night service and we ate supper. We were late getting back to church that night but God was there in a mighty way and the service was going in full swing when we arrived.

Brother Hargrave and others were praying about the offering that night, and he announced that a missions offering would be taken. It was the first ever to be taken in our work in Brazil. There was wondering in the minds of some whether or not such a project would be successful. It was not very long, however, until it was apparent that God had placed His approval upon the effort and the people began to give money and pledges. The first count revealed over 13,000 cruzeiros received. When the results were announced, the people shouted, laughed and cried, and talked in tongues, and amidst the shower of the Holy Ghost, people began to give more until the missions offering finally amounted to over 21,000 cruzeiros.

It was not difficult to preach that night as the Holy Ghost was already there, and a great spirit was present in the services. Again that night there was great liberty in preaching. Brother McAfee was anointed to interpret. An invitation was given to seek the Lord, and again came a great response to the invitation. In the two nights' services, there were at least ten who received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Brazil is ripe for real Holy Ghost revivals. They are pleading for workers. Let us pray that God will send laborers into the harvest as the fields are now ripe unto harvest. Whether we can go or not, at least we can join in prayer that God will pour out His Spirit. While all countries are hungry for the gospel, it seems that Brazil offers and affords the greatest immediate opportunity for an ingathering of souls that I have seen in a long time.

**THE WORKERS IN BRAZIL** are putting forth every effort that is possible to spread the gospel of Christ. Brother and Sister McAfee and Brother and Sister Watson are working hard to carry out the work of the Lord. Brother McAfee showed us some of the results of his work. They are printing the *Evangel* in Portuguese, and it is being distributed in Brazil. Some copies are being shipped to Angola, Africa, and to Mozambique, Africa. I am heartily encouraged over the splendid efforts that are being put forth for God and His Church in that country. Let us pray that the Lord will help them and strengthen them to carry on for God and His cause.

While I am speaking of the *Evangel*, let me close by saying that I am very happy of the areas to which our Church of God *Evangel* is being sent, and the languages in which it is being published. I pray God that it will not be too long before it shall be published in many more languages and thus aid in the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Presently the Church of God *Evangel* is being printed in English, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and in some of the dialects of the Indian language. Let us pray that God will add His blessings more and more to the printing of the message of salvation as it goes to the lost and the dying over the world.

Had you been privileged to journey with me into

these various sections where Church of God conventions are held, you would rejoice with me over God's workings in these various countries. You would also wonder and marvel at the gigantic amount of work these missionaries are doing for God and His cause, and appreciate the sacrifices that are being made so that others may hear the story of Jesus and His love. I do thank God for the Church of God, our ministers, and the work that is being done for God and His cause. May the Lord help all of us to envision as never before the great commission of Christ to "preach the gospel to every creature."

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### Church Gains Seven New Members

WILLIAMSTON, N. C. — The Church of God in Williamston has just closed one of the greatest revivals that the church has ever had. Six were saved, 5 sanctified, 2 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 7 added to the Church. The evangelists were Brother and Sister Britt of Fayetteville. They would be a blessing to any church. Our church is growing under the leadership of our pastor, the Reverend John F. Oliphant, and his wife.

—Dannie Mobley, clerk

### Church Has Successful Revival

WHITESIDE, Tenn.—We recently closed a revival with the Reverend Perry Fred Stone, of Davis, West Virginia, as the evangelist. Eight were saved, 3 sanctified, 4 filled with the Holy Ghost, 12 baptized in water and 6 added to the Church. Reverend David J. Lambert is the pastor of the Whiteside Church of God. —B. W. Lee, clerk

### Twenty-one Baptized in the Holy Ghost in Fort Worth

FORT WORTH, Texas — The White Settlement Church of God, Fort Worth, Texas, has been blessed by a great revival. The evangelist for the two weeks was the Reverend C. G. Crutcher, of Lamesa, Texas. Someone was saved and filled with the Holy Spirit almost every night. There were 14 converted, 21 sanctified, and 21 filled with the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Many received healing from the Lord as they were prayed for. The

members were renewed and encouraged, especially as they saw loved ones find Christ as their Saviour. The revival was preceded by prayer and fasting by the church.

When the revival started our church membership was 31. During the revival 19 new members joined the Church and 2 came in by transfer, a total of 21. God truly blessed us. We are planning a big baptismal service in the near future.

We thank the Lord for our pastor and his wife, the Reverend and Mrs. John B. Waller. They have devoted their lives to the ministry and are really working hard for our church. We love and appreciate them very much. During the revival, with the help of the evangelist, the church gave Brother Waller a new suit.

God is working in the White Settlement Church of God. Pray for our continued growth.

—Cecil I. Cook, clerk

### Nineteen New Members Since July

HENRIETTA, Texas—We have just closed one of the greatest revivals the church in Henrietta has known for many years. with the Reverend and Mrs. Robert White as evangelists. The power of God was really present in a mighty way. There were 10 saved, 5 sanctified, 2 baptized with the Holy Ghost, and 7 added to the Church. From this wonderful revival, the church is experiencing a marked increase in tithers. The Lord has really blessed the church under the spiritual leadership of our pastor, Brother W. E. Rodgers. Since July, we have gained 19 new members.

The church is really stirred and desires to move forward for God.

—Mildred Burleson, reporter

### Greenville Has Mighty Outpouring

GREENVILLE, S. C.—Sister Mae Terry, of Cummings, Georgia, was our evangelist for the wonderful revival our church has just experienced. She is certainly an outstanding minister of the gospel. Many of the older members of the church remarked that this was the greatest revival our church has experienced in many years. The Holy Ghost would take charge and people would be shouting and praising God from the front of the church to the back. Hungry seekers would often stay until 12:00 or 1:00 a.m. Large crowds filled the auditorium each night. Forty-two were saved, 36 sanctified, 34 filled with the Holy Ghost, 10 baptized in water, and 8 united with the Church. Many found complete healing for their bodies. The spiritual tide has risen in our church because of this glorious outpouring.

—Bobby Ross, assistant pastor

### Twenty-two Converted, Many Healed

CAMPAIGN, Tenn.—The Lord has surely blessed the Church of God at Campaign, Tennessee, with a mighty outpouring of the Holy Ghost through the dedicated ministry of His servant, the Reverend C. R. Stansberry, of Smithville, Tennessee. During a revival of three weeks, 22 were saved, 11 sanctified, 10 baptized with the Holy Ghost and 5 added to the Church. Every night during this revival people were divinely delivered from sickness, fear and other oppressions of the devil. The church is really stirred for God. We believe that this is the beginning of a great victory God is going to give us at Campaign.

—Joseph Sharp, pastor



## reports

### NEW ENGLAND PRAYER CONFERENCE

The Prayer Conference of the Churches of God in New England convened at the local church on Lafayette Street in Portland, Maine, Friday and Saturday, February 15, 16. The presence of the Lord seemed very near from the beginning of the first service which was on Friday evening. Everyone seemed to have come with an open heart and mind, each desiring a deeper consecration to God. The Lord blessed the congregation as they worshipped Him with joyful singing.

We were honored by having with us the Reverend H. D. Williams, our General Secretary-Treasurer. Surely he was anointed by the Holy Ghost as he delivered the inspirational message entitled "Effective Praying." His text was taken from James 5:7-21. He evaluated the importance of prayer and pointed out that we must live lives that are wholly dedicated to God if our prayers are to be effective. He explained that it is not necessarily the length of our prayers, or the manner in which the prayer is worded, or even the position of our bodies as we pray, but it is praying sincerely from a pure heart and within the realms of God's divine will for us. Our hearts and souls reached out and up toward God, wishing that we might pray more effectively, not only that we ourselves might have a closer walk with God, but that our unsaved loved ones might be brought to His feet.

The morning service began with the remembrance of the previous evening's message still ringing in the hearts and minds of the people

as they poured out their thoughts and petitions before God. The morning's message was ably preached by the Reverend Ralph A. Wilson, pastor of the Church of God in New Britain, Connecticut. His message was on "Prayer and Praise." He emphasized the importance of praise unto our God, along with our praying. He explained that every Christian should begin his prayers with praise to God for His *past* blessings before petitioning Him for *future* ones. Many of those present were moved to deep thought on their past prayers and were stirred to a determination to praise God more in appreciation of His wonderful blessings to them.

The local Ladies' Willing Workers' Band prepared two delicious meals, one at noon and the other around 5 p.m. They worked many hours to have rooms and food ready for those who were away from home attending this great spiritual feast from the Lord.

The afternoon service began with great rejoicing and Spirit-filled singing of His praises. Almost everyone began to search his own heart, soul, mind and spirit as our beloved overseer, the Reverend George W. Ayers, preached so dynamically on "The Lord's Supper and Feet-Washing." He used Matthew 26:26-29 and John 13:2-17 as a basis for his soul-stirring message. He emphasized the humility of Christ and told of His command that we follow His example to do this "in remembrance of his coming again." He closed his message by extending a plea to each person to examine himself and make

anything right with God and man, so that he would not partake of the coming service unworthily. Everything was in readiness for the Communion and Feet-Washing that followed and many people partook with much heart-searching and with rejoicing as we look forward to our Saviour's soon coming.

The Spirit of the Lord came again in our midst as we gathered for the evening service on Saturday. How the people worshipped God as the beautiful messages in song went forth! They willingly gave \$61.78 as their prayer conference missions offering; then Brother Williams began his challenging message on "Effective Witnessing." Truly he was anointed with fire from God's holy altar as he spoke to us. Our hearts were made to burn with a great zeal to speak more often to those who are seeking something to satisfy the longing in their souls. We vowed in our hearts that we would do more in this way than we had ever done before, that we would put more time, thought and prayer in our efforts to win those that are out of the family of God.

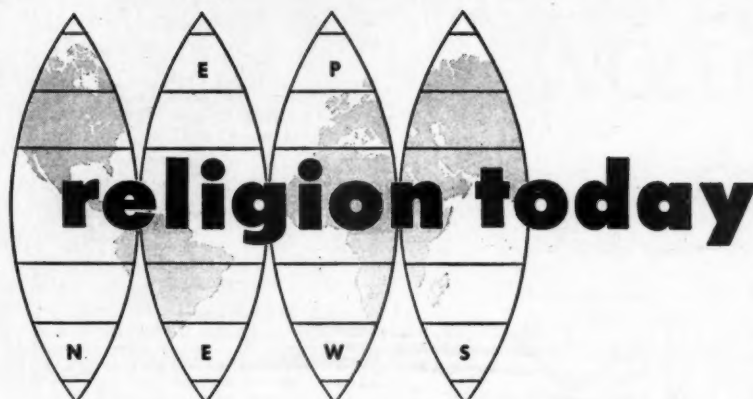
Surely those who attended these great services went back home with renewed zeal and a challenge to fight satanic forces with greater courage than we had before coming. This prayer conference will long be remembered as one of the best we have ever had in this area. Much of the credit for the success of these services goes to Brother Ayers, our able overseer. He has worked and is working hard to promote the cause of Christ here and is appreciated and loved by all who know him.

—Rev. Joseph Jones  
Pastor, Pittsfield

Friendship is a chain of God . . . Shaped in God's all-perfect mold . . . Each link a smile, a laugh, a tear . . . A grip of the hand, a word of cheer . . . Steadfast as the ages roll . . . Binding closer soul to soul . . . No matter how far or heavy the load . . . Sweet is the journey on friendship's road.

—Author Unknown





### Jewish Youths Seen to Have "Deep Interest" in Religion

An article on religion in the newly released, 559-page *Jewish Year Book* reports that "evidence continued to mount of a widespread and deep interest throughout the United States, particularly among young people."

Known as *The American Jewish Year Book*, it covers a broad range of articles on Jewish population data, civic and political status, communal affairs, religion and Jewish affairs in countries throughout the world.

The book estimates the world's Jewish population at 11,900,000 — a slight increase over last year. About 6,000,000 live in North and South America; more than 3,000,000 live in Europe, while Asia has more than 1,750,000. About 600,000 are in Africa and 58,000 in Australia and New Zealand. The Jewish population of the United States was put at 5,200,000.

### Gospel Musicians Eying New Musical Instrument

Gospel musicians across the country are eying with interest a new musical device said to combine the advantages of an accordion and an electronic organ. The new device has been introduced by the Thomas Organ Company of New York City, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Pacific Mercury Television Manufacturing Corporation of Sepulveda, California.

"Any one who can play the accordion is a prospective customer" for the new instrument, according to Joseph Benaron, Pacific Mercury president. He said it combined the 120 bass accordion keyboard with

the musical tones and flexibility of an electronic organ in a single console.

### Assemblies of God Announce Membership Survey

Noel Perkin, Foreign Missions Secretary of the Assemblies of God, has announced the result of a new membership survey made by the denomination's 730 foreign missionaries. It shows that the churches founded and supervised by these missionaries now have 575,811 members, as compared with a membership of 470,361 in the churches in the U.S., making a total over-all membership of 1,046,172 for the Assemblies of God denomination.

### New Methodist University to Get 12 Wesley Letters

Twelve original letters of John Wesley will become the prized possession of Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C., the Methodist Church's only theological school named in honor of the founder of the Methodist movement. The letters, written from 1773 to 1788, are from the Wesleyana collection of Bishop and Mrs. G. Bromley Oxnam which includes several first edition books and other writings of John Wesley. The letters will be kept in the library of the new seminary — formerly Westminster Theological Seminary, Westminster, Maryland — when the school opens in 1958.

The well-preserved letters, written in Wesley's meticulous script, reveal several interesting insights of "the little minister's" social and theological philosophy. "Be serious! Be earnest! Be little in your own eyes, and God will order all things well," he counseled a fellow minister in 1774. On peace, Wesley ob-

served: "You do well to follow after peace. Nothing is more desirable. One would give up anything for it, but a good conscience. And the only way you can secure it is to walk closely with God." "Whenever a door is open, there push forward," Wesley advised one minister, who may well have been an evangelist. For another he had this gentle rebuke: "O exhort the believers to go on to perfection. Perhaps you have been sometimes a little wanting in this."

For a circuit-riding American, Wesley had this advice: "In the country places I believe you will have the largest harvest, where they know little and talk little about politics. Their hearts are engaged with something better, and they let the dead bury their dead." A hard-riding horseman himself, Wesley spurred on a circuit rider: "I am glad you are going into North Carolina; and why not into South Carolina, too?"

Wesley replied to a minister who inquired about his health: "The account given in our newspapers of my death was not wholly without foundation; for I was not only dead, my pulse being quite gone and the wheel at the cistern without motion." But then our Lord stepped in, and the fever owned His touch and fled.

Troubled about the rebellion of the American colonies, Wesley in 1775 wrote Thomas Rankin, then his "superintendent of the entire work of Methodism in America," as follows: "A paper was sent to me lately, occasioned by the troubles in America; but it would not do good. It is abundantly too tart; and nothing of that kind will be of service now. All parties are already too much sharpened against each other; we must pour water, not oil, into the flame."

(John Wesley and his brother, Charles, came to this country intending to be missionaries to the Indians in 1735. This plan failed, and they remained only until early 1738. However, their religious work was regarded as important to the founding of Methodism in 1738 in England, and to its early foothold in America.)

### Springfield, Missouri

The program of Central Bible Institute will be changed in September so that a Master of Arts degree in Religion can be offered. The change involves an up-grading of the fifth-year course from an undergraduate to a graduate level. Central Bible Institute, with an enrollment of approximately 600 students, is the largest of nine ministerial training schools operated by the Assemblies of God in the U.S.A. It was established in 1922.

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